

Willow Springs Sunday Worship Dec. 11, 2022 9:30 am

Simulcast on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4743450556>

Meeting ID: 474 345 0556 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Co-Hosted by Elaine Good and Steve Dubrick

Advent 2: RESTORATION IS NEAR - Tell what you hear and see

Focus - This is a week of encouragement. We can be strong because the one who can truly restore us is coming. We have hope because of what we have already seen.

Welcome and Call to worship – Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler

Call to worship

Leader: Look, I am sending my messenger, go tell what you have seen!

People: God's awesome wonders fill the earth,
the lost are found, the blind receive sight,
the deaf hear, the lame walk,
the poor are preached to,
and those who are dead in spirit receive new life.

Leader: Is this what you were expecting to see?

People: Blessed are they who trust in the Lord!

Leader: For his yoke is easy, his burdens are light.

All: *Great is thy faithfulness!*

Candle-lighting liturgy

Leader: Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is soon.

People: Tell what you hear and see:
even now, like water in the desert,
we see God's action all around.

"O Come, O Come, Immanuel," verses 1 and 7 (VT 210)

Leader: As we gather strength, we light this candle
as a sign of your love made visible among us.

People: Bring your restoration to your people, we pray.

Songs

Children's time – Beth Gerig

Focus: A shepherd remembers the good things God has done and what God has promised to do.

Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10

Sermon: *Restoration in Desert Journey*

Song

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

After prayer times “Lord, in your mercy” respond with “hear our prayer.”

Offering Song

Announcements Consider a time slot to help with Children's Sunday School over the next quarter. Contact Carol Gale.

December 12-14 **MCC Meat Canning** in Freeport. Please contact Cal if you would like to help out. Cal and Simon are planning to help on Tuesday.

January 7/8 **Young Adult Retreat at Willow Springs.**

Sending May you go out in love, emboldened to share the good news of God's restoration.

Online giving option: <https://tinyurl.com/donateWSMC>

Masks are encouraged but no longer required in our building. If you have Covid-like symptoms, please stay home and join by Zoom. Thank you for your consideration of others.

Isaiah 35 Joy of the Redeemed

35 The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.

³ Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;

⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷ The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸ And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹ No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰ and those the Lord has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Psalm 146:5-10

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,

⁸ the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

¹⁰ The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord.